

August 24, 2021

Honorable Clint Lorimore
President, Regional Council
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: SoCal Greenprint Initiative

Dear SCAG President Lorimore,

As a 5013c desert conservation organization which has to date conserved over 100,000 acres of fragile and unique desert lands within the California Desert Conservation Area, we are reaching out to thank the Southern California Association of Governments for development of the SoCal Greenprint project.

As potential users of the SoCal Greenprint, we applaud SCAG's leadership for taking more than 100 sources of already publicly-available data and converting them into a useful tool that helps stakeholders visualize how to conserve and protect our invaluable desert ecosystems and landscapes. As development pressures, wildfires and climate change become increasingly greater threats, we expect our local leaders to seek the best tools to ensure that Southern California is prepared and resilient for the challenges that we know lie ahead. The SoCal Greenprint can be one of those crucial tools to help us prepare for these challenges. Specifically, we would request map layers to include boundaries for the California Desert Conservation Area; wildlife corridors and habitat; and desert landscapes that have been identified as having high biological diversity and importance for conservation.

As a region, Southern California is connected by National Parks and wilderness areas, wildlife corridors, conservation areas and economic activity. The SoCal Greenprint will help to promote smart regional planning that also makes sense to promote environmental conservation.

We urge you to take the feedback collected to strengthen the tool and develop the resources we need for sustainable growth in Southern California.

Thank you,

Susy Boyd
Public Policy Coordinator
Mojave Desert Land Trust